



Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

Volume 40 Number 3

November 1973

CONFERENCE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The chilling possibility of a nation unable to keep warm seems real with winter approaching. Can we safely relax environmental standards to permit the burning of high-sulphur fuel to cope with this problem? Hear the answers to this and other related questions, from such nationally recognized experts as Ann Dore and Dr. Harold F. Breimyer. Ms. Dore, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington D. C., is one of the outstanding career women in our government. Dr. Breimyer is Perry Foundation Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri, at Columbia, and former president of the American Agricultural Economic Association.

Date:	November 30, 1973
Place:	J.C. Penney Building University of Missouri St. Louis
Time:	9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The conference is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Missouri, and co-sponsored by the University of Missouri. The St. Louis Audubon Society is one of the co-operating organizations.

The morning program will include; an update on important national legislation -- Water - Air - Solid Waste -- by Environmental Protection experts, and the effect of the legislation on Missouri. The afternoon will provide a choice of workshops -- Energy, Transportation or Land Use. There will be an opportunity for free discussion with federal and state administrators. This statewide public information meeting is partially funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Coffee and Luncheon will be available in the cafeteria.

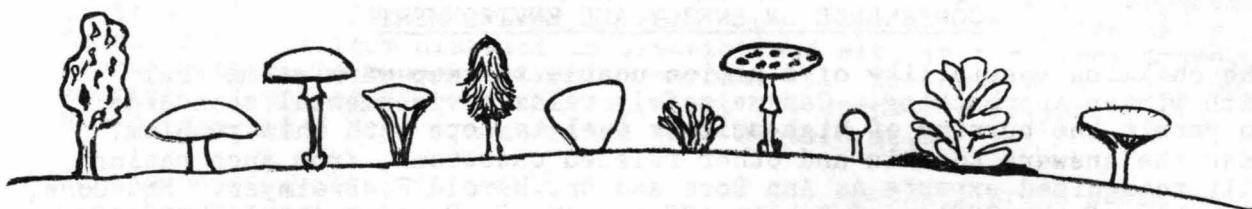
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The next Wildlife Film on November 16th, will be Florida's Cypress Sanctuary: Fisheating Creek. Richard Kern and nine others have purchased 400 acres surrounding the creek for a nature preserve. His film tells the story of the land and the stream, and the creatures which live there. Time--8:15 P.M. Place-- Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road.

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On Friday, January 18, the St. Louis Audubon Society will have a special membership meeting at the St. Louis County Library. Our topic, which should be of vital importance to all our members, will be Environmental Legislation in Missouri. We are privileged to be able to have Ed Stegner, Executive Director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, as one of our speakers. There will be a second speaker, also very much involved in this work, but at press time final arrangements hadn't been completed. Save the date and watch the January bulletin for more details.

If you are as nearly over the hill as the editor, (who is waiting eagerly for the day she can qualify as a little-old-lady-in-tennis-shoes) you will remember this assignment from the opening days of grade school. Inevitably the first composition was "My Summer Vacation". In a sense that might be the theme of this issue. And after all, as we all prepare to shiver and stay home for the sake of conserving fuel, what could be better than to re-live pleasant summer days? We are especially pleased to have such glowing reports from those who attended the Audubon Camps. Several of our much traveled members have also shared with us some memories of very special places they have come to know. And closer to home there are accounts of enjoyable experiences in working for the Audubon Cause.



MUSHROOMS

Were there really more mushrooms than usual this fall, or did it just seem that way because I was eagerly looking for them? Once ones eyes are attuned to them it seems they are everywhere in September and October in a bewildering variety of sizes shapes and colors. Anyone who knows a mushroom only from cans of buttons, stems or pieces has no idea what he is missing. We have feasted all fall on at least a dozen varieties, inky, shaggy manes, orange rosettes, oysters, chanterelles, fawns, puffballs, lepiotas, clitocybes etc. etc.

But--- a large word of caution. No one should try this unless he feels absolutely certain of what he is doing, and has made spore prints as a first step to check his identification. Unfortunately, none of the old wives tales about silver spoons etc. prove anything, and within almost every family of mushrooms there are the good guys and the bad guys. Even the dread amanitas have some edible representatives, but no amanitas should be tried, just on general principles.

You don't know what an amanita is? Unfortunately, many other people also don't, and this can lead to disaster. The amanitas are probably the most beautiful of all mushrooms, and also the most deadly. They have wonderful names like destroying angel (pure white), panther (brown with paler flecks on the cap), or the most famous of all, the amanita muscaria, the orange "fly" mushroom which is said to be the "soma" of oriental religions. Amanitas are tall (when full grown) have evenly spaced white gills, and usually perfectly circular caps. The most significant feature is the little petticoat around the upper stem (like those tutus that used to be on lamb chops in the days we could all afford them). There is also the cup or vulva surrounding the base of the stem, but this is sometimes hard to observe unless one digs up the mushroom rather than just breaking the stem.

There are many books on mushrooms, but the best and simplest is also the cheapest. This is the Golden Book paperback on Non-Flowering Plants. It's available at the Shaws Garden Gift Shop, and at a dollar (\$1.25 now?) is a great bargain. Not only does it have clear pictures and text on mushrooms, but it also has excellent sections on ferns, mosses, lichens, etc. One who likes the out-of-doors should not be without it.

THE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

The showing of prize-winning slides and the unveiling of display award color enlargements to go on tour in the first Nature Photography Contest of the St. Louis Audubon Society was held the evening of October 2, 1973, in the main auditorium of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. Hundreds of persons joined the 31 display award winners to see the slides and hear Mildred Blaha, one of the six accredited photography contest judges who selected the winners, weave an inspiring nature narration around the projection of the 260 qualifying slides.

Earl H. Hath, former president of the St. Louis Audubon Society under whose administration the Nature Photography Section was initiated, presented certificates of award to 12 Honorable Mention recipients and 31 Display Award winners. J. Marshall Magner, President of the St. Louis Audubon Society, then unveiled the thirty-one 11" x 14" mounted color prints made from the Display Award winning slides selected from over 400 entries in the competition. The awards program audience was the first to view the traveling exhibit prints which then began their display tour the next day at the new Boatmen's National Bank building in downtown St. Louis for a three-week stay. On November 1 the exhibit moves to St. Louis County National Bank in Clayton.

When the traveling exhibit ends its extensive tour some time during 1974, each print will be given to the photographer from whose slide the display enlargement was made. Display Award winners are (in alphabetical order):

Martin Bachesta, Jr.	Rosaleen Devlin	Al Lodwick
Kenneth Biddle	Victor Douglas	Elizabeth Nettles
Herman Brune	F. B. Erickson	Frank Robertson
Charles Budde	Walter Eshbaugh	John Sarsgard
Nikolajs Cirulis	Hal Flowers	Fred P. Schrage
Joan Dwyer	James Hammond	Gary Shackelford
Robert Dwyer	Earl Hath	Leona Spence
Alex Cole	Fred Helfeasier	Ron Steffens
Dorothy Cole	Charles Hill	James Teng
John Dahlke	Donna King	Willard Walker
		William Wiese

and the Honorable Mention Awards went to:

Edgar Clark	Robert Knoernschild
James Diekman	Lester Leutwiler
Barbara Jean Estill	Jon W. Marx
Sister Mary Frances Fitzgerald	Eric Nelson
J. W. Hillemeyer	Walter Prosek
Sister Marcella Holloway	Bettina Van Dyke

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GIFT FORM



1973 BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX STUDY

Burrell Pickering

The results of this sixth year of study of the Bluebird Nesting Box Trails at Sunny Ranch in Warren County as made by members of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society showed a slight drop in the number of young added to this family of American Thrushes, 289 against 299 last year.

This has been a most unusual year weatherwise with a long rainy spell in the spring causing heavy flooding, and then three weeks in July with no rain. Thereafter, there has been some wet weather most every week, all of which has affected the bluebird nesting season. This spring the peak period was some three weeks later than usual and the last young left the nests during the last week in August. This rainy weather produced an unusual experience in late April when it was found that five nest boxes had the entrance holes closed with wet grass which the bluebirds had tried to get into the boxes for nest building. Also the rate of young dying in the nests was higher than in prior years. An Ornithologist, writing in a Nature Magazine, attributes such death in part to cold wet weather.

The known loss of young from the boxes to predators was twenty four against none last year and raccoon tracks were observed on some of the boxes. Late in the season the poles were greased. In past years the band of metal below the boxes had been sufficient to deter predation.

House sparrows continued to be a plague with nesting boxes near buildings causing all the trouble; none of the boxes in the open fields had sparrow nests. During the weekly survey, 38 house sparrow nests with 111 eggs were removed. 3 boxes were used continually and 11 occupied part of the season.

Some interesting observations made by the weekly checkers and a study of the data sheets show: Nest Building usually required 5 or 6 days but during the height of the breeding season one week-end a box would be empty and the following week-end it would have a nest and several eggs in it. Both the male and female took part in nest building activity but usually it was the female that did most of the work. Egg Laying started promptly after the nest was completed and usually contained 4 or 5, sometimes 6 eggs. The eggs are ovate and a pale blue. Incubation started as soon as the last egg was laid and required 14 days. Young grew rapidly and were fully feathered and ready to leave the nest in about 15 days. They were able to fly a short distance on the first try to some low branch of a tree and none was ever found on the ground. Feeding was by both parents every few minutes from dawn to dusk with the male continuing to feed them after they left the nest while the female continued with her next brood. Housekeeping is a fine quality of these delightful birds with the eggs shells removed as soon as the young are hatched and the droppings continually removed to keep the nests quite clean. Food Habits of the bluebirds do little harm to human interests as they feed almost entirely on the ground rather than flying insects. The vegetable portion of their diet is largely fleshy fruit and mostly of the wild variety with holly, blueberry, flowering dogwood, virginia creeper, hackberry, sumac, pokeberry, and red cedar berries carrying them through the winter in our area. Unfortunately we have never seen a bluebird at one of our several feeders, although

some do stay here all winter.

Some may wonder why the need for bluebird nesting boxes and this can be explained by the fact that bluebirds nest only in cavities, either natural or man made. Formerly the sites used consisted of old woodpecker holes and other natural cavities in dead trees and often in wood fence posts having holes in them. Under todays farming practices, dead trees are usually removed and fence posts are of metal. Also such cavities are frequently used by house sparrows or starlings so that adequate natural nesting sites for the bluebirds do not exist. Hence the decline in the bluebird population and the need for properly constructed boxes with the requirements of a one and one-half inch entrance hole which will keep out the larger birds. It should be mentioned that it has been necessary to cover the entrance blocks with a piece of tin with the hole in it since the woodpeckers seem to delight in making the wooden holes larger for their use.

It is hoped that everyone who can will put up boxes for the friendly bluebirds which are so aptly named since they carry the deep blue sky on their backs are the official bird of the State of Missouri.

RESULTS OF 1973 BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX STUDY AT SUNNY RANCH

<u>EGGS</u>	<u>YOUNG</u>			
Total Laid 387	Died in Nest 14			
Infertile or Deserted 33	Lost to Predators 24			
Disappeared from Nest 27	Fledged 289			
Young Hatched 327	Percentage Eggs Laid 75			
Percentage 84	Percentage of Hatched 88			
<u>Bluebird Yearly Comparison Data</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Boxes Available	40	58	60	60
Boxes in which Nested	28	36	50	45
Total Nests	46	55	87	89
Eggs Laid	212	248	393	387
Eggs per Nest	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3
Young Fledged	137	195	299	289
Percentage of Success	65	79	76	75
Average per Nest	3.0	3.5	2.3	3.2



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

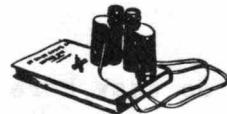


The St. Louis Audubon Orchard Farms-St. Charles County Christmas Count will be held Saturday, December 22, 1973. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at old Boschertown Schoolhouse at junction of Highways 94 and B. Bring lunch. Prior registration not required. For further information call Earl Hath, 965-8642 or contact Chairman Earl Comfort, 630 West Essex, Kirkwood, Mo., 63122.

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society count will be held at the Busch Wildlife Area on Sunday, December 23. Meet at the headquarters at 8:00 A.M. Bring lunch. For further information call Jim Comfort 962-8373.



AUDUBON SUMMER CAMPS



For many years the National Audubon Society has operated summer camps to teach the basics of natural history and ecology. Many distinguished conservationists and naturalists have served on their staffs. Participants, whether layman or professional, come away from the camps not only with new knowledge, but with a renewed spirit for the cause of conservation.

There are four camps each having a unique program to match its particular environment. The Wisconsin Camp is located in the northern lake and forest country. The Connecticut Camp offers a variety of scene changes, fields, streams, ponds and seashore. The intertidal zone and spruce woods are the environment of the Audubon Camp in Maine. The Camp of the West is located in Wyoming near the Grand Tetons.

The St. Louis Audubon Society has awarded scholarships to the camps for more than 10 years. As our resources have increased, our society has been able to send an increasing number of participants to the various camps. To give our members a feeling for the camp programs, here are excerpts (slightly edited) from letters from some of this year's participants:

WISCONSIN

"My experiences at the Wisconsin Camp were a combination of every sense used to explore new places, application of known facts to new problems, and the realization that here was a place where the learning was mutual.....You might be wondering what to expect from an Audubon Camp. If you think that this is a place where little old ladies in sneakers sit around and watch birds through binoculars all day, you are laboring under a distorted illusion. Here's what really to expect:

Expect to get wet--not just a little around the ankles, but around the knees, hips, armpits, and behind the ears. "How deep is that part of the bog?" is a foolish question to ask of a man who is 6' 2" and you happen to be only 4' 11". Life jackets are provided!

Expect exposure to new aspects of the natural sciences which you may not have encountered before. For example, there was a very down-to-earth (literally) segment on geology, taught through study of the rocks and land formations of the area.

Expect to leave with a sense of new awareness that you want to give to children, teachers, and those with a hobby or professional interest in nature and conservation education."

Sandra Nelsen

"Wisconsin area flora and fauna are quite similar to ours. Nature trails, meadows, roadsides, bogs, and swamps provided interesting wildlife for observation or photography.

"The Sidewinder" and "The Auk", two ancient buses, quite surprisingly transported us on various journeys. We paddled canoes down the Namekogian River and explored the shore of Lake Superior. A day at Crex Meadows provided many of us a first experience in observing a rookery with cormorants and great blue herons nesting side by side.

"The Potomageton", a floating classroom, provided water transportation as well as an observation deck. We checked temperature, oxygen content, and turbulence at various water depths."

Alyce Hildebrandt

.....
"The camp atmosphere was what impressed me the most. We came from many backgrounds but our universal interest in nature bound us together closely. My wife, who also was a camper, made the statement that she had never met such beautiful people. I agree completely. The able and enthusiastic staff brought everything together for what was a fantastic and unforgettable experience. I had wanted to go to the camp to get ideas for setting up nature trails and activities on our districts undeveloped areas. I got what I wanted and also a fresh look at nature and mankind."

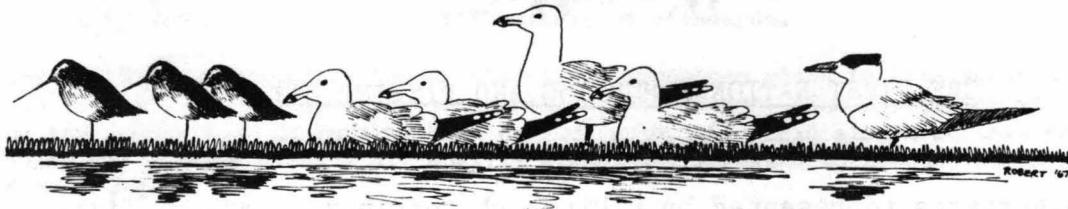
Richard Hovorka

CONNECTICUT

"There were many activities. These included a lecture on weather and geology, an orientation walk where we "read" the landscape, basic concepts lectures followed by field examples (we walked through trails on the Center grounds), a walk on a country road, stream and pond ecology (we waded right in), a planetarium show, and field identification of wildflowers, birds, animals, ferns, and trees.

The high point of the week for me was the all day trip to the seashore. Being from St. Louis, I had had little contact with shore creatures. We saw egrets, plovers, herons, and sandpipers. We waded at low tide and looked at tide pools, learning some tidepool and shore ecology. Tiny starfish as small as a dime, hermit crabs, sea squirts, crabs, a large horseshoe crab 10 inches in diameter, and many, many barnacles were present. I had seen these before, but only in plastic bags ordered through supply houses. Seeing the natural home of these animals was great. I enjoyed the Camp very much and learned a great deal."

Emily K. Fast



MAINE

In Muscongus Bay, paralleling the shore, looms the long dark outline of Hog Island-- 330 acres of untouched wilderness. It is roughly a mile and a half in length, half a mile wide, and at the northern end, separated by only a few minutes row from the mainland or approximately one-fourth mile. The Island is 90 feet in height at the highest point and is covered with dense forests of pine, spruce and balsam. Here and there between two rocky points, a spring of clear water overflows across a little crescent beach. The granite ledges, of which the Island is built, crop out along the bare crest. In the shade of the sweet smelling forests are deep beds of ferns, along with multi-colored mushrooms and the spectral Indian pipe.

It is here on this magnificent Island that the Audubon Society and Wildlife Sanctuary maintains a summer training program. It is here where we studied the fascinating Maine sea coast with its charm and unusual ecological relationships. It is here where I learned the thrill of rediscovering my five senses as I tasted the salt spray, touched the barnacles on the rocky shores, looked at the brilliance of the sea, listened to the silence. As my mind drifts back, I see again the dense spruce forests with the mosses and lichens. I hear the roar of the sea and the gulls' eerie cry. A feeling of tranquility and the concern for all living things was developed through personal involvement with the beauty and mystery of this special Island."

Ethel Nolte

"Aside from being able to observe numerous species of plants and animals native to the Maine seacoast and Islands of Muscongus Bay, I felt very fortunate to be able to work with Stephen W. Kress (bird life instructor) in his attempts to re-establish a colony of common puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) on Eastern Egg Rock Island. We were particularly concerned with the problem of finding a suitable food source for the young puffins, while they are confined to their underground burrows. Other noteworthy observations included visits to a Great Blue Heron rookery, nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants, and Black Guillemots."

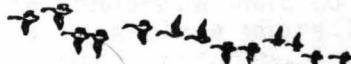
Raymond R. Feick

Persons interested in applying for a scholarship to one of the summer camps are requested to write to Mr. Ed Ortley, 5663 Pernod Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63139.



DICK GROSSENHEIDER REPRODUCTIONS

Not all of us know that Dick Grossenheider, our own outstanding Naturalist-Painter, is equally skilled in pen and ink renditions. Now, here is your chance to own four supreme reproductions on fine paper, 8½ by 11". The subjects are: Deer, Panther, Chipmunk, and Otter. These can be obtained from Bill Groth of the Museum of Science and Natural History, Oak Knoll Park for \$5.00 as long as the supply lasts.



THE FIRST NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Lee Mason

Nature enthusiasts represented by hiking, photography, camping, fishing, archery, boating and hunting organizations brought together at Rockwoods Conservation Education Center in western St. Louis County, by the Missouri Conservation Commission used the country's first National Hunting and Fishing Day, Saturday, September 22, 1973 to show the public how each group works actively to improve our environment. The photography exhibit, sponsored by the St. Louis Audubon Society, presented: "HUNTING WITH A CAMERA."

Charles Hill, Floyd Erickson, Herman Brune, Walter Liddell, Ed and Lee Mason displayed color prints of a variety of nature subjects. Clara Hill showed two of her paintings of birds for which she relied upon photographs for her exacting renditions. "B-J" Erickson, Clara Hill, and Edith Brune distributed Audubon literature while the photographers explained photographic techniques and equipment to the public. Attention stealers of the day were two three-week-old baby raccoons. A leaf-free tree had been "planted" near the Audubon exhibit and the little raccoons were placed on various limbs to suit the viewing angle of the many camera buffs who wanted to photograph them. Youngsters vied for the privilege of holding and bottle feeding the young animals when it was feeding time, and the combination had people with cameras rushing up from all directions. Although a steady drizzle persisted almost to opening time at 10:00 a.m., several thousand persons visited the Reservation before the exhibits closed at 5:00 p.m.

National Hunting and Fishing Day gave the 13 exhibiting organizations and the Missouri Conservation Commission a fine opportunity to show what the lure of the great outdoors is all about.

Focus on the



Environment



Betty Wilson

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The "energy problem", as defined by the President, refers to the existence of a gap between our energy needs and our domestic supplies. Most of the policies advanced so far by the Administration are short term solutions to the problem of energy shortages. These proposals are based on the assumption that, in the long run, we have adequate resources and that we just need time to develop our research and technological capabilities.

The President's September 10 message to Congress on Legislative Priorities included, among others, the following energy bills:

- 1) Natural Gas -- The cleanest of our fossil fuels has been available at low prices due to Federal regulation. But, the President said, we are facing a shortage of natural gas because the low price has discouraged producers from expanding their supplies. He proposed legislation to de-regulate natural gas so that its price will be determined at the market place.
- 2) Surface Mining -- The President noted the importance of coal as a domestic source of energy, and recognized that surface mining is "the most environmentally destructive method of extracting coal." His proposed legislation, however, would not ban strip mining nor apply strict reclamation standards.

Besides legislative measures, the President has announced plans to take administrative action to meet anticipated heating oil shortages this winter. The new policy would mean relaxing the prohibition on burning high sulfur fuels. It would also mean that compliance schedules for meeting primary air quality standards, designed to protect human health, would be relaxed.

Each of the above carries an environmental price tag. There is little doubt that trade-offs will have to be made between environmental protection standards and measures needed to increase our energy supplies.

The crucial question: What price is the public willing to pay to maintain environmental standards?

TROUBLE ON THE BIG PINEY

The Big Piney River is the principal tributary of the Gasconade. It is one of Missouri's most beautiful recreational streams, but in recent years it has become badly polluted. Excessive nutrients have resulted in damaging growths of algae in the lower Big Piney. Extensive pollution is introduced into the river from Cabool, Houston and Fort Leonard Wood. This contamination has resulted in several large fish kills.

Two years ago the Missouri Clean Water Commission issued a no-discharge order covering all sewage and waste water disposal into the Big Piney and its tributaries. Such a stringent ruling would appear to solve the problem and be well within the power of the Clean Water Commission.

The treated effluent will be used for waste water irrigation, and its basic components (principally nitrates, sulfates and phosphates) would provide inexpensive nutrition for plants. Can the plant life absorb enough of this sewage quickly enough to protect the underground waters? Will the geologic condition of the area cause such a rapid entry of treatment plant effluent into the ground water that it will contaminate wells? Will the underground waters present a health hazard? The EPA fears a health hazard; the Clean Water Commission sees no reason to fear for the public health. This unresolved problem will continue to be a subject for discussion.



TEACHER EDUCATION

Claudia Spener

"Hey kids, come here quick and see what Melvin has found!" I yelled and fifteen youngsters of assorted sizes, shapes and colors hurried to the spot where Melvin proudly pointed. A large yellow and black garden spider was wrapping up a grasshopper that had just flown into her web. Around and around the luckless grasshopper went the spider encasing her dinner in the stream of silk that flowed from her body. At last satisfied that the grasshopper was secure the spider returned to the center of her web to await another victim.

The kids jostled for position to view the spectacle and there was an outpouring of questions: "What kind of spider is it?" "What's he going to do with that grasshopper?" "Is it still alive?" "What's that stuff he's putting on it?"

Not knowing very much about spiders, I fielded the questions as best I could.

Then Nancy found a persimmon at her feet and the spider and her dinner were quickly forgotten. Everyone scrambled to find persimmons in the tall goldenrod beneath the tree. A few reached for the fruit still on the branches and I explained that we couldn't eat the fruit on the tree as it was not ripe. Some of the children bit into their persimmons timidly while others, like Melvin whose brown tummy protruding beneath his T-shirt revealed his love of good food, put the whole thing in his mouth.

"H mm, that's good," said Melvin
"Yuck," said another grimacing and spitting it out.
"I'll eat yours if you don't want it," Nancy offered.

As we continued down the path the children brought me leaves, berries, and caterpillars to identify. We also examined Monarch butterflies, thistles and three well-camouflaged frogs beside a creek. The children took it all in, their curiosity unslackened by the warmth of the October afternoon.

At last we were back at the main lodge and the children made a dash for the water fountain.

"How'd it go?" asked camp director, Richard Davis. "Great!" I said.
"The children were enthusiastic and polite. I really enjoyed it."

As I drove home that afternoon I reflected upon my experience. When I had been asked by St. Louis Audubon if I would be interested in helping the Special School District with a nature program for retarded children I was a little skeptical about the benefits. But now I realized that while I was opening their eyes and ears they were opening mine. For although a child may be retarded it doesn't necessarily follow that his enjoyment of life will be impaired. Far from it, these children were every bit as curious and enthusiastic as children should be and I found myself eagerly awaiting my next experience with them. Who knows what else they'll teach me?

Other St. Louis Audubon members who assisted Special School District in this program at Camp Daniel Boone were Katherine Chambers, Frank Erb, Bertha Massie and Mary Wiese.

MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Katherine Chambers

Have you ever heard of Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunk (pronounced Shongum) Mountains? These are very old mountains outcropping under the Catskill strata about 95 miles north of New York City. The Smiley family, originally Quaker school teachers, has owned the land around the lake for about a hundred years and developed it into a resort for people who enjoy nature. The drive along a scenic winding road ending in a beautifully landscaped formal garden and the Mountain House, makes one feel he is entering a king's private domain. Mohonk Mountain House overlooks Lake Mohonk with its border of huge conglomerate boulders. Across the lake towers Skytop, a cliff of the same rock.

Mohonk activities include skiing, rock climbing, golf, swimming, boating, fishing, tennis, horseback riding, carriage and sleigh rides, and, best of all, hiking. No cars are allowed on the trails, of which there are fifty within a mile radius of the Mountain House, all with lookout points and breathtaking views. Some of these trails are for "those with short legs or little time", and others for "the really determined hikers". We took one of the latter and for four hours did not see another human being while we climbed over rocks and down into the caverns of the Humpty Dumpty Trail and the Giant's Path. We did see deer; many birds, including a pair of nesting orioles; and a woodchuck which we almost stepped on as it came across the path. I don't know which was more frightened, the hiker or the woodchuck! There are also guided nature walks several times a week and spring and fall "Nature Weeks" with visiting experts. The Mountain House rooms are all on the American plan, but we rent a cottage and prepare our own meals, with all the privileges of the Mountain House guests.

The Smileys are ardent ecologists, and have in progress many experiments in cooperation with conservation agencies and universities. One on the gypsy moth showed that even during heavy infestations, trees in unsprayed areas suffered less in the long run than those which were sprayed. We saw many larvae afflicted with parasites which effectively checked their depredations. A long-term study of variations in the growth of "rock tripe" (Umbilicaria), which, like other lichens, is very susceptible to pollution, is also being carried on.

Throughout the years the Mountain House has hosted many gatherings devoted to international understanding as well as to various sports and conservation groups. Realizing that one family alone could not keep this region indefinitely, in 1963 they formed the Mohonk Trust "a charitable and educational enterprise (1) to promote world order and international understanding" and (2) to preserve the natural beauty of the region". This plan might become a pattern for saving other wilderness areas.



FERN ODESSA TRAIL

Bertha H. Massie

Rocky Mountain National Park in northern Colorado has been a vacation spot for the Massies, either individually or collectively, since the late 1920s. With such a long background of experience, this trail continues to be a favorite particularly when done as a circle trip. Two cars are required, one to be parked at the Fern Lake trailhead for the return trip and the other to drive to the start at Bear Lake.

The old trail through the woods along the stream is much more rewarding than the newer one out in the open. When a high point on the regular trail is reached there is a sign indicating Lake Helene. Walk to this pretty little lake lying below Notchtop Mountain and continue around to the right where a narrower path starts dropping down toward Lake Odessa. This is the old trail which is easy to follow and at the foot of Lake Odessa joins the other one.

As late as mid-September it is possible to find columbine in bloom in the nooks and crannies along with rose and star gentian. Earlier in the season it is a veritable flower garden with Parry primrose, marsh marigold, globe flower, elephantella and many other mountain flowers. This year we had beautiful views of pine grosbeaks as we were coming down on September 13 and at Lake Odessa the highlight was a dipper that went from rock to rock just in front of us.

THE RIDGES

Warren B. Lammert



The Ridges Sanctuary near Bailey's Harbor, Door County, Wisconsin, is just a day and a half away from St. Louis by car. This rich botanical area is a 740 acre refuge with hiking trails, guided or self-guided tours. It has 50 different points of interest listed in a booklet which is available for fifty cents. The land lies between Lake Michigan and a limestone cliff of Niagara dolomite, formed about 425 million years ago when it was a coral reef in the warm tropical mid-Silurian era sea. Virginia Eiffert described this area in one of her books, explaining the presence of tundra plants left by the ice age.

Along the trails you will see cedars, common and horizontal junipers, white spruce, balsam fir, white pine, tag alder, paper birch, black ash, balsam poplars and mountain maples. There are wintergreen plants, reedgrass, huckleberry, gray reindeer lichen, yellow pond lilies, canada mayflowers, and field horsetails. Nearby are endless fields of yellow coneflowers, thistle, Queen Anne's Lace, and along the roads a great variety, depending on the season.

The booklet lists 53 birds; guided tours to observe them are held up to the latter part of July. In April you can see trailing arbutus and buffaloberry. During May and early June, Dwarf Iris. Trillium is everywhere, including Giant Trillium. There is Sand Cress, Artic Primrose, Marsh Marigold, purple Violet, Gold Thread, Indian Paintbrush, Gaywings, Yellow Violet, Buckbean, Swamp White Violet, Bog Rosemary, Ramshead Ladyslipper, Blue Eyed Grass, Twin and Star Flower, and on and on. In the late summer we photographed Grass of Parnassus and Purple Fringed Orchids. Later there would be Gentians.

There is so much to see during the season that it takes several trips to see it all. Some flowers seem to be there one day and the next day new species will have appeared. We found a lovely stand of Swamp Rose one day and they were gone a few days later.



ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

Editor Mrs. William Wiese
711 N. Taylor
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122
Telephone 965-2310

Did you know that the St. Louis Audubon Society with 1496 members is the 10th largest of the 304 chapters? We are probably well over 1500 by now....and other local chapters have undoubtedly been organized.

OFFICERS

J. Marshall Magner, President
Leo Drey, 1st Vice President
Gary Giessow, 2nd Vice President
Edgar Denison, 3rd Vice President
Mrs. Jerome Chambers, Secretary
Mrs. Joel Massie, Treasurer

Assistants Mrs. Jerome Chambers
Mrs. Joel Massie
Mrs. Hiram Norcross
Mrs. Clinton Phillips
Mrs. Jay Rice

Executive Secretary Mrs. Jay Rice
240 Blackmer Place
St. Louis, Mo. 63119
Telephone 961-0895

* * *

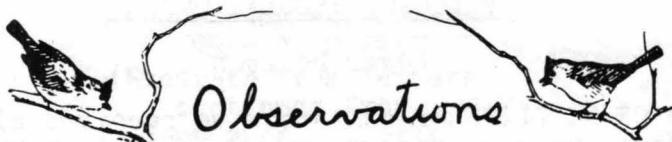
If you know of anyone who should be receiving the Bulletin but isn't, please communicate with Mrs. Rice. Changes in address should also be sent to her.

Board members with dates terms expire are as follows:

1974
Louis Brenner
William Brush
Mrs. Eleanore Nelson
Edward Ortley
Mrs. William Wiese
Jack Van Benthuyzen
John B. Gunter

1975
George Billy III
Miss Mabel Boss
Mrs. Edward F. Mason
Miss Sharon Miller
Mrs. Hiram Norcross, Jr.
Dr. Mildred Trotter
Kurt P. Wesseling, Jr.
Mrs. Edwin F. Stuessie

1976
Earl H. Hath
Mrs. Earl H. Hath
Mrs. Warren Lammert
Donald M. Menke
Father James Mulligan
Jay G. Rice
Martin Schweig, Jr.
Mrs. J. Russell Wilson



ST. LOUIS AREA FALL BIRDING

J. Earl Comfort

Locally, shorebirds stole the fall birding show with 29 kinds over an extended period stopping off to thrill the birders. Best species were Knot, Willet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Piping Plover and Northern Phalarope. There were several other species that are ordinarily considered rare. It wasn't unusual to list from 15 to 20 kinds of shorebirds on a given trip.

A Western Grebe, originally spotted by Jim Ruschill and Viola Bucholtz on the 9th of September at the Calhoun Division of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge in Calhoun County, Illinois, stayed around to be listed by many thrilled observers. All 5 of the area terns showed up in September, with the large Caspian being the most frequently observed.

Some rare fall species other than the shorebirds and the grebe were White Pelican, Virginia Rail, Swainson's Hawk and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Cattle Egrets made the birding news because of their numbers late in September. Also interesting were large circling flocks of migrating Broad-winged Hawks. On occasion other hawk species were observed in the flight, including two Swainson's.

In addition to the regular monthly St. Louis Audubon Shaw's Garden Arboretum nature walks in Franklin County the Society now has a monthly nature hike in Tyson Park near the Arboretum.

On the 30th of September our Society enjoyed a nature outing at the popular Pickering Sunny Ranch wildlife refuge in Warren County. There were interesting field trips in charge of competent leaders. One of the highlights of the outing was the Ed and Lee Mason's photography workshop. The Masons are outstanding in this pleasant diversion. As always, Burrell and Ruby Pickering were gracious hosts.



The new Field Guide to Mexican Birds by Peterson and Chalif has finally been published! The St. Louis Audubon Society has ordered 25 copies as a service for its members. The price is \$8.95 and we hope to have them available at the next Wildlife Film. For information call the Society's number at the Coalition for the Environment office, 727-2311.

LEGISLATION FOR OPEN SPACE IN URBAN AREAS

Congressman James Symington has co-authored a bill to establish an "Urban Parkland Heritage Corporation" to provide funds for the acquisition and operation of open-space land in urban areas. The bill is H. R. 3498 and it has been referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency because it would amend the Housing Act of 1961. To see the exciting opportunities which would become available to us on passage of H. R. 3498, write to Jim Symington for a copy of this bill.

FALCONRY REGULATIONS

Edgar Denison

From the DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE organization we received alarming news about proposed federal regulations, which would apply both to endangered and non-endangered raptors. These would permit the possession by persons 12 years old and up of a large variety of birds of prey. The so-called "master-class" of falconers would be allowed to keep even endangered species (with a bureau permit). The idea is supposed to be to promote the breeding of these birds in captivity, a most dubious undertaking. Falconry in the 1970ies is an anachronism.....neither the birds of prey nor their quarry are plentiful any more. I would urge you to write to those listed below and voice your opposition to these proposed regulations. The Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, Dep't. of the Interior. Washington D. C. 20240.

Mr. E. Z. Schmidt, Acting Director, Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife. Dep't. of the Interior, Washington D. C. 20240

Mr. Nathaniel P. Reed, Ass't. Secretary of the Interior, Dep't. of the Interior. Washington D. C. 20240



KETC Viewers Advisory Committee: This committee of representatives from a wide variety of groups in the area helps KETC plan programs which will serve the area, and tries to promote better use of existing programs. "Man Builds, Man Destroys" (Thursdays, 9 p.m., starting November 8) and "Interface" (Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m.) should be of interest to Audubon members. We are asked to help plan a telecourse on Missouri law, and to suggest names of prominent people whom we would like William F. Buckley to interview on "Firing Line" (Sundays, 9 p.m.) Call Audubon representative Katherine Chambers if you have any suggestions. Phone 863-9346



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

The morning of October 13 dawned with such a heavy downpour that one might have been tempted to stay home. By the time we reached Rising Sun Camp in Lake of the Ozarks State Park the sun was shining and the day was perfect as was Sunday.

Among the items at the business meeting were four important resolutions:

1. Disapproval of the Corps of Engineers proposed Meramec Dam.
2. Disapproval of the L-15 Levee plan of the Corps.
3. Approval of a Prairie National Park as proposed by the "Save the Tallgrass Prairie" organization.
4. Approval of a wild and scenic river status for the Gasconade and its tributaries as proposed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

The evening meeting was devoted to a program by Dr. David Easterla on "The Flora and Fauna of Big Bend National Park". With the beautiful slides and very knowledgeable commentary it was a memorable evening. Even some of us who had not been too impressed with the area on a visit at a very dry time of the year felt that a return visit should be made. B+M



Cancelled commemorative and high value foreign stamps can be re-sold by the Co-operative Bald Eagle Project in Florida. This program has protected many bald eagle nests on over 2 million acres of private land from human interference. Money received from stamp companies goes to post the sanctuary areas and pay the expenses of volunteers who patrol them.

Send your stamps to the Bald Eagle Sanctuary Project, c/o Florida Audubon Society, P. O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida.



REPORT FROM NEW GUINEA

Mary C. Wiese
(Excerpts from letters
continued from
September Bulletin)



10:00 p.m., August 18, Mt Hagen, N.G.

Today we drove out from Mt. Hagen on a new road which will eventually go through to the south coast and so is being built with two full lanes and sturdy steel bridges. Still gravel surface, of course. Road building is terribly expensive here because of the mountains and rivers and it goes very slowly with hand labor for most of it. The wire cages of river boulders I mentioned before are used everywhere as bulwarks and we see people filling them in the riverbeds.

Today must have been a day for district meetings because we saw hundreds of people along the roads and gathered in village centers. We were out to see birds as usual, but I would have liked to have stopped to observe what went on at the meetings. We did make one non-bird stop that I have wanted to make for a long time, to look at a native church. We followed the road to its temporary end, about four miles over the border into Papuan territory. They play down this distinction now that self-government is coming so there was no marker on the border, but there was the church. It was made entirely of local materials, saplings and kunai grass bound together with vines, with no nails in the entire structure. It was quite large, about twenty by fifty feet and semi A-frame. It looked something like the spirit houses pictured in the National Geographic and I wondered if this was another case of the Catholic church sensibly incorporating native forms into their worship. The inside was very bare, no pews or chairs, and just a board for a communion table. Behind this was a fairly standard picture of Madonna and Child with some drapery. Some very withered flowers were in old mackerel cans and on a screen were more withered flowers which I suspect were votive offerings. No one was around except the inevitable small children. They seem to materialize like Genies out of the ground wherever we stop.

The new birds today were very interesting, all of them in patterns of black and white, and all in families entirely different from any North American birds. The first was the perky little Wren Warbler who hops around with a long tail stuck straight up in the air. The other two were at the Geigul River where we had lunch. The Torrent Lark, as his name implies is at home among the boulders right at the rivers edge, and the little Salvatori's Teal lives even more dangerously, smack in mid-stream where the water bounces off the rocks into rapids and water falls. We watched a mother and two ducklings and were always sure that one baby or the other would be swept away, but they always made it, through the rapids and, after some scrambling, up on to a rock. These are very rare ducks (small wonder since they choose to live in such disastrous circumstances) and Len says we are one up on Peter Scott, the British waterfowl man, who came to New Guinea expressly to see them. but missed. These were the groups 150th N. G. species.

We had an encounter at the river which seemed as unreal as anything yet. (pinch me, am I really in the middle of this?) While we perched on the rocks on one bank a hunting party emerged from the tangled trees on the other side. There were three men with bows and arrows, one carrying a little boy, and several women and other children, one with a bunch of bananas, another with a bilum full of empty tin cans which she rinsed in the river.

The people were as excited to see us as we to see them, wading out into the river and waving and doing their slight bounce and yodel. As they moved along through the trees they would pose photogenically whenever they thought they were in sight. There is quite a technique in waving,

incidentally, and it varies from district to district. In the Hagen area the action is comparable to shaking water off one's hands. In other districts the motion is broad and circular, in still others, slightly withdrawn and from side to side. We have seen many groups of very friendly people, but somehow this minimally clothed party, emerging so unexpectedly from the forest was the most fascinating of all. Had it not been for the jarring note of the cans we could have felt truly back in the Stone Age.

I had a very different and equally interesting encounter at dinner tonight. Usually we are terribly groupy and all sit together, but tonight I was a little late and was seated with a very proper British gentleman in the small dining room. He adamantly told the waiter that he wanted dry mustard mixed with water for his roast beef, but that's not why he was interesting. He is the prosecutor for the Papua-New Guinea Supreme Court, out from Australia for a two year term. Apparently it's a little like a traveling road show since he, the judge and a defender travel from district to district and sit, in the legal sense, wherever there is enough action to warrant it. No rape, no murder, no sitting. I pumped him, of course, about the operation of justice in New Guinea and I hope I understood what he told me.

He has been involved in trials of some of the people I wrote about who have been engaging in clan warfare. In fact, just today the number two man of one clan was sentenced to four years imprisonment for making the mistake of shooting a lethal arrow into the son of the number one man of the other village. When you do that it's murder and ungod. A little bashing around is okay and you can do it again the next day. I asked him how the police (all native of course) decide whom to arrest in these fracases. He said that if they can't find out exactly who is actively involved they just take off a few of the younger and best fighters for a few days and that effectively calms things down.

calendar



Wednesday, November 14 7:30 p.m. AUDUBON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY, Section meeting Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, 1200 S. Kirkwood Rd. (Lindbergh) All camera buffs welcome.

Friday, November 16, 8:15 p.m. AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd. Florida's Cypress Sanctuary: Fisheating Creek, Richard Kern.

Saturday, November 17, 8:00 a.m. Audubon Nature Walk at Shaw's Garden Arboretum, Gray Summit. Meet at Main Gate. Also December 15.

Sunday, November 25, 8:00 a.m. Audubon Nature Walk at Tyson Park. Meet at entrance. For further information call Earl Hath, 965-8642. Also December 30.

Friday, November 30, 9:30 a.m. Conference on Energy and the Environment, University of Missouri, St. Louis, See announcement page 1.

Saturday, December 22, 8:00 a.m. Audubon Christmas Count in St. Charles County, see notice on page 5.

Sunday, December 23, 8:00 a.m. WGNSS Christmas count at Busch Wildlife Area see notice page 5.

Friday, January 18, 8:00 p.m. Special Audubon Society Meeting at St. Louis County Library Headquarters. See announcement, page 1.

Saturday, February 16, 8:00 a.m. Annual Eagle Count, Clarksville Mo. Further details in January Bulletin.

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY Midweek birding trips will continue as usual. For information on Wednesday trips call Sallie Phillips, 821-2216.

For Thursday trips, call Helen Bowman, 531-1748 or Rose Ann Bodman, 961-2583.

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS For further information about Audubon trips call Earl Hath, 965-8642
